

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A recombinant microorganism belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and being capable of producing vitamin B6, wherein said microorganism carries extra nucleic acids encoding ~~genes which code for~~ an enzyme combination selected from:

- i) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase and 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase;
- ii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase; and
- iii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase, 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Original) A process for preparing vitamin B6 comprising the steps of:

- i) culturing the recombinant microorganism of claim 1 in a fermentation broth; and
- ii) separating the resulting vitamin B6 from the fermentation broth.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A process for preparing vitamin B6 comprising the steps of:

- i) culturing a recombinant microorganism belonging to the genus *Escherichia* and carrying an extra nucleic acids gene encoding erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase in expressible form, in a fermentation broth; and
- ii) separating the resulting vitamin B6 from the fermentation broth.

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 4 [[5]], wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a

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temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.